

The Nation and The Athenæum

Social Insurance Supplement

[This Supplement contains the draft of a Bill prepared by Sir William Beveridge in conjunction with the Liberal Summer School Research Department. An Article by Sir William, explaining the objects of the Bill, appears elsewhere in this issue.]

SOCIAL INSURANCE EXTENSION BILL

MEMORANDUM

THE principal provisions of this Bill are as follows:—

New Benefits to Insured Persons.—All persons insured against unemployment, or their widows or orphans, as the case may be, will be entitled, in addition to unemployment benefit, to widows' benefit, orphans' benefit, and pension benefit (clause 1). A single inclusive contribution will be paid for all four benefits into the unemployment fund already established under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and the benefits will be paid from that fund (clauses 11 and 12).

Extension to Agriculture and Domestic Service.—Insurance for all four benefits is extended to agriculture and domestic service, at present excluded from unemployment insurance, at special rates of contribution and benefit, allowing for their special conditions and for their low risk of unemployment (clause 2). Practically the whole employed population will thus be included in compulsory insurance. Provision is made also for voluntary insurance by others, securing to them the benefits of the State contribution (clause 10).

Widows' and Orphans' Benefits.—These benefits are payable on the death of any male insured person leaving a dependent child, and consist of weekly payments at the rate of 15s. to the widow and 6s. for each child (clause 3 and First Schedule). The widow's benefit ends thirteen weeks after the last child ceases to be dependent. She loses her benefit also if she remarries, or neglects any of her children, or is guilty of misconduct prejudicial to their welfare (clause 7 (1)). If, for any of these reasons, or because the mother also is dead, widows' benefit is not payable, orphans' benefit is raised to 10s. for the first dependent child, and the insurance officer may determine to whom the orphans' benefit shall be paid, with a view to their proper care (clause 14 (2)), that is to say, he may order it to be paid either to the mother or to some other person. If the employed man leaves a widow but no children, widows' benefit is not payable, but the widow is credited with contributions for the purpose of unemployment benefit (clause 4). In agriculture and domestic service, widows' benefit is 10s. and orphans' benefit is 4s., with 7s. 6d. for the eldest child where widows' benefit is not payable (First Schedule).

Pension Benefit.—This is an allowance paid between the ages of 65 and 70 to every insured person, or, if the insured person is dead, to his widow between those ages (clauses 5 and 6 (1)). The payment is 10s. a week in all cases (Second Schedule). The widow loses pension benefit on remarriage, and also if and so long as she lives with a man as his wife (clause 7).

Relation to Workmen's Compensation Acts.—Widows' benefit, orphans' benefit, and pension benefit to a widow are not payable in respect of an employed man if his death was due to an industrial accident or disease for which compensation has been paid or is payable under the Workmen's Compensation Acts (clause 6 (2)).

Increase of Unemployment Benefit.—The rates of unemployment benefit in the present insured industries are raised from 15s. to 18s. for men, from 12s. to 15s. for women, and from 1s. to 2s. for young dependent children. The rates of boys' and girls' benefit (7s. 6d. and 6s.), and the allowance for dependent wife or husband (5s.), remain as at present (clause 8 and Third Schedule). This agrees with the proposals in the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill introduced on April

3rd, 1924, except in making no provision for boys and girls under sixteen, whom it is not proposed to insure. For agriculture and domestic service the rates are: men 12s.; women 10s.; boys 5s.; girls 4s.; with 5s. for dependent wife or husband, and 2s. for each child.

Postponement of Full Benefits.—The full benefits prescribed in the Bill are payable only after the end of the "deficiency period," i.e., the date certified by the Treasury to be the date when the unemployment fund is solvent (clause 9). Till then, pension benefit will begin only at age sixty-six, in place of sixty-five, and, if the Treasury so direct, certain rates of benefit may also be reduced as follows:—

Widows' benefit in the insured industries to 12s. 6d., in place of 15s.

Pension benefit to 8s., in place of 10s.

Unemployment benefit to 15s. for men and 12s. for women (the present rates).

Widows' benefit in agriculture and domestic service, and orphan benefit and allowances for young dependent children of unemployed persons, will be payable at the full or increased rates forthwith.

Rates of Contribution.—The inclusive rates of contribution per week for all benefits under the Bill and the Unemployment Insurance Acts are as follows (clause 12 and Fourth Schedule):—

Ordinary Rates (for present insured industries).

	Employed.	Employer.	Exchequer.
Men ...	10d.	10d.	10d.
Women ...	7d.	7d.	7d.
Boys (16-18)	5d.	5d.	5d.
Girls (16-18)	3½d.	3½d.	3½d.
Agriculture and Domestic Service.			
Men ...	5d.	5d.	5d.
Women ...	3d.	4d.	3½d.
Boys (16-18)	2½d.	2½d.	2½d.
Girls (16-18)	1½d.	2d.	1½d.

The ordinary rates for employers and employees are practically those now in force for unemployment alone, except that the men's contribution is raised from 9d. to 10d. to equal that of the employer, while the employer's contribution in case of women is reduced from 8d. to 7d. to equal that of the employee. Corresponding changes are made in the rates for boys and girls. The Exchequer contribution is raised to one-half of the joint contribution of employers and employed (clause 12 (2)). Section 4 (2) of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922, which requires the reduction of contributions at the end of the "deficiency period" of the unemployment fund, is repealed (clause 19 and Fifth Schedule), so that the rates of contribution proposed are established as permanent rates, subject only to the powers of temporary modification and periodic revision embodied in sections 15 and 16 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920. The rates and periods of unemployment benefit will also remain liable to alteration under section 15 of the principal Act, but the other benefits will be fixed (clause 11 (2)).

Refunds to Insured Persons at age of Sixty.—The refunds at age of sixty of contributions less benefits drawn, provided for under section 25 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, are abolished.

Administration.—The machinery for determination of claims is assimilated to that under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, subject to a power of making necessary variations by regulation, and similar provisions are inserted as to penalties, appointment of officers, &c. (clauses 15, 16, 17, 18).

THE BILL

A Bill to Extend Social Insurance by adding Pensions and Widows' and Orphans' Allowances and other benefits to the benefits provided under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1924, and to extend and otherwise to amend those Acts.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. [*Right of persons insured against unemployment and their dependents to widows', orphans', and pensions benefits.*—Subject to the provisions of this Act, all persons who are insured as "employed persons" under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1924, and the widows and orphans of such persons, shall, in addition to any benefits secured to them under those Acts, as amended by this Act, be entitled to widows' benefit, orphans' benefit, and pension benefit at the rates and subject to the conditions laid down by this Act, so long as they are not disqualified for benefit under this Act.

2. [*Extension of insurance to excepted employments.*—(1) Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Part II. of the first Schedule to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 (in this Act referred to as the "principal Act"), which exclude certain employments from the provisions of the Act, shall cease to have effect:

Provided that in the cases of persons engaged in such employments the rates of contribution and of benefit shall be those specified as the rates in agriculture and domestic service in the relative Schedules to this Act, and that unemployment benefit shall be payable to such persons only in respect of unemployment occurring six months or more after the commencement of this Act.

Provided further that the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister of Health, arrange for contributions in respect of such persons under this Act and the Unemployment Insurance Acts to be paid with and as if they were contributions for health insurance under the National Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1920, and may make regulations accordingly.

(2) The Minister shall not issue any certificate as to the terms of dismissal or employment of any person under Paragraph (d) of Part II. of the first Schedule to the Principal Act unless he is satisfied that the terms and conditions of employment secure to the employed person benefits equivalent to those provided by this Act, and any certificate already issued by him shall, as from six months after the commencement of this Act, be void.

3. [*Widows' benefit and orphans' benefit.*—Widows' benefit and orphans' benefit shall be payable on the death of any male employed person leaving a legitimate child, or other child wholly or mainly dependent on him, under the age of fourteen years, or over that age but under sixteen and in full-time attendance at school (in this Act referred to as a dependent child), and shall consist of payments, at weekly or other prescribed intervals, at such rates and for such periods as are authorized by or under the First Schedule to this Act:

Provided that widows' benefit and orphans' benefit shall not be payable in respect of any employed person unless at least 100 contributions have been paid in respect of him to the unemployment fund, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, during the five years preceding his death.

4. [*Contributions credited to widows for unemployment benefit.*—If a male employed person dies leaving no dependent child, but a widow who is not herself an employed person, the widow shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be credited for the purpose of unemployment insurance with any contributions not exceeding 156 paid in respect of him during the five years preceding, and such contributions shall be deemed to have been paid in respect of her.

5. [*Pension benefit.*—(1) Pension benefit shall be payable to every employed person attaining the age of sixty-five years, or to the widow of such person on her attaining that age, and shall consist of payments at weekly or other prescribed intervals, at such rates and for such periods as are authorized by or under the Second Schedule to this Act:

Provided that pension benefit shall not be payable to or in respect of any employed person unless at least 100 contributions have been paid in respect of him to the unemployment fund, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, within the five years preceding his death or attainment of the age of sixty-five.

(2) A person shall not be entitled to receive more than one pension benefit at the same time.

6. [*Saving for Old-Age Pension and Workmen's Compensation.*—(1) Pension benefit shall cease to be payable to any person attaining the age from which pensions under the Old-Age Pensions Acts become payable.

(2) Widows' benefit, orphans' benefit, and pension benefit shall not be payable in respect of any employed person whose death resulted from an industrial accident or industrial disease for which compensation has been paid or is payable under the Workmen's Compensation Acts.

7. [*Disqualifications for widows' and pension benefit.*—(1) A widow shall be disqualified for widows' benefit if she remarries, or if and so long as she lives with any male person as his wife, or neglects any of her children, or is guilty of misconduct prejudicial to their welfare.

(2) A widow who remarries shall be disqualified for pension benefit while she is so married.

(3) A widow shall be disqualified for pension benefit if and so long as she is living with any male person as his wife.

(4) A person shall be disqualified for any benefit under this Act while he is an inmate of any prison or any workhouse or other institution supported wholly or partly out of public funds, or while he is resident, whether temporarily or permanently, outside the United Kingdom.

8. [*Rates of unemployment benefit.*—(1) As from the second Thursday next after the commencement of this Act unemployment benefit shall be at the weekly rates set out in the Third Schedule to this Act, and the first paragraph of the Second Schedule to the principal Act shall be amended accordingly.

(2) Section 1 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922 (which provides that the weekly rate of benefit authorized by the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 and 1921, shall be increased in respect of certain dependents), shall apply to the weekly rate of benefit authorized by the said Acts, subject to the following modifications, namely, that the increase in respect of a wife or other female person or dependent husband shall be at the rates specified in the Third Schedule to this Act instead of five shillings, and that the increase in respect of a child shall be at the rate specified in the Third Schedule instead of one shilling.

9. [*Reduction of certain benefits during deficiency period.*—Until the end of the deficiency period as defined in Section 16 of the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Act, 1921, sixty-six shall be substituted for sixty-five as the age on attainment of which pension benefit is payable, and in addition the rates of benefit that would otherwise be payable under this Act, or some of them, may, if the Treasury so direct, be reduced in the following proportions:—

The ordinary rates of widows' benefit may be reduced by an amount not exceeding one-sixth.

The rate of pension benefit may be reduced by an amount not exceeding one-fifth.

The ordinary rates of unemployment benefit may be reduced by amounts not exceeding one-sixth for men and one-fifth for women.

But other rates of benefit shall not be reduced.

10. [Voluntary insurance.]—The Minister may, with the consent of the Treasury, make regulations providing for the voluntary insurance under this Act and the Unemployment Insurance Acts of persons who have been employed contributors or the husbands and wives of such employed contributors and of other persons for whom, in his opinion, such provision is desirable, and any contributions paid by such persons in accordance with such regulations shall be deemed to be contributions paid in respect of employed persons under this Act.

11. [Unemployment Fund.]—(1) All benefits under this Act shall be payable out of the unemployment fund constituted under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and all contributions shall be paid into such fund.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall affect the provisions of Section 15 of the principal Act for the securing of the solvency of the unemployment fund by temporary modifications in any of the rates of contribution or the rates or periods of unemployment benefit.

12. [Rates of contribution.]—(1) The inclusive rates of contribution from employed persons and employers to the unemployment fund under this Act and the Unemployment Insurance Acts shall be those set out in the Fourth Schedule to this Act, and those rates shall be substituted for the rates in force under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, and save as aforesaid all the provisions of those Acts relating to contributions shall apply.

(2) The contributions to be paid to the unemployment fund out of moneys provided by Parliament shall be one-half of the amount of the contributions paid by employers and employed persons, calculated in the manner prescribed in sub-section (3) of section 5 of the principal Act.

13. [Repeal of Section 25 of principal Act.]—Section 25 of the principal Act, providing for refunds of contributions in certain cases at the age of sixty, shall cease to have effect as from the commencement of this Act.

14. [Determination of claims.]—(1) Claims to any benefits payable under this Act shall be determined in like manner as claims to unemployment benefit under the principal Act, subject to any changes which may be made by regulation, and the provisions of the principal Act as to insurance officers, courts of referees, and umpires shall apply accordingly.

(2) Where orphans' benefit is payable, but no widows' benefit is payable, the insurance officer may determine the person to whom the orphan benefit shall be paid, with a view to securing the proper care of the orphans.

15. [Appointment of officers.]—The Minister may appoint such officers, inspectors, and servants for the purposes of this Act as the Minister may with the sanction of the Treasury determine, and there shall be paid, out of moneys provided by Parliament, to such officers, inspectors, and servants, such salaries or remuneration as the Treasury may determine; and any expenses incurred by the Minister in carrying this Act into effect, to such amount as may be sanctioned by the Treasury, shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.

16. [Offences and penalties.]—A person guilty of making any false statement or false representation for the purpose of obtaining benefit, or of avoiding payment, or of failure to pay contributions, or of receiving any benefit while he was disqualified for receiving such benefit, shall be liable to the penalties prescribed for such offences under the principal Act.

17. [Regulations.]—The Minister may make Regulations:—

(a) For prescribing the evidence to be required as to the fulfilment of the conditions for receiving widows' and orphans' and pensions benefit;

(b) for prescribing the manner in which claims for widows' and orphans' and pensions benefit may be made, and the procedure to be followed on the consideration and examination of claims;

(c) for prescribing the time, place, and manner of payment of benefit;

(d) for adapting any of the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act and applying them as so adapted to the benefits granted under this Act; and

(e) for arranging, with the consent of the Postmaster-General, for the payment through a post-office of any or all of the benefits under this Act.

(f) generally for carrying this Act into effect.

18. [Power to remove difficulties.]—If any difficulty arises in any manner whatsoever in bringing this Act into operation, the Minister, with the consent of the Treasury, may by order do anything which appears to him necessary or expedient for that purpose, and any such order may modify the provisions of this Act so far as may appear necessary or expedient for carrying the order into effect:

Provided that the Minister shall not exercise the power conferred by this section after one year from the commencement of this Act.

19. [Construction, saving, short title, and commencement.]—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

The expression "child" includes a step-child, an adopted child, and an illegitimate child;

The expression "the Minister" means the Minister of Labour;

The expression "the principal Act" means the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920;

(2) The enactments set out in the Fifth Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of that Schedule.

(3) This Act shall not apply to Northern Ireland.

(4) This Act may be cited as the Social Insurance Extension Act, 1924.

(5) This Act shall come into operation on January 1st, 1925.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Weekly Rate and Period of Widows' Benefit and Orphans' Benefit.

	Ordinary Rate.		Rate in Agriculture and Domestic Service.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Widows' Benefit.				
While any benefit is payable in respect of a dependent child, and for thirteen weeks thereafter	15	0	10	0
Orphans' Benefit.				
If widows' benefit is payable, in respect of each dependent child	6	0	4	0
If no widows' benefit is payable, in respect of the eldest dependent child	10	0	7	6
in respect of each other dependent child	6	0	4	0
Orphans' benefit shall cease to be payable at the end of the week in which the child ceases to be dependent.				

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Weekly Rate of Pension in all cases s. d.
10 0

THIRD SCHEDULE.

Weekly Rates of Unemployment Benefit.

Class of Persons to whom Rate Applies.	Ordinary Rate.		Rate in Agriculture and Domestic Service.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Men	18	0	12	0
Women	15	0	10	0
Boys (16 to 18)	7	6	5	0
Girls (16 to 18)	6	0	4	0
Increase in respect of wife or other female person or dependent husband	5	0	5	0
Increase in respect of child	2	0	2	0

FOURTH SCHEDULE.

Rates of Contributions by Employed Persons and Employers.

	Ordinary Rate.	Rate in Agriculture and Domestic Service.
From the employed person for each week:—		
In the case of men ...	10d.	5d.
In the case of women ...	7d.	3d.
From the employer for each week:—		
In the case of men ...	10d.	5d.
In the case of women ...	7d.	4d.
In the case of persons under eighteen, half the above rates in each case.		

FIFTH SCHEDULE.

Enactments Repealed.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
10 and 11 Geo. 5. C. 30	The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920.	Section 25, Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Part II. of the First Schedule.
12 Geo. 5. C. 7	The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1922.	Section 2 and the First Schedule.
13 Geo. 5. C. 2	The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1923.	Subsection (2) of Section 4 and the First Schedule.

NOTE ON FINANCIAL BASIS OF BILL

The estimated expenditure and income (in millions of pounds) are:—

	1925.			1941.
	Present Industries.	Agriculture and Domestic Service.	Total.	Total.
Pension Benefit ...	16.1	4.4	20.5	29.2
Widows' and Orphans' Benefit ...	11.0	1.5	12.5	13.3
Unemployment Administration ...	25.0	.7	25.7	22.7
Administration ...	5.0	.5	5.5	5.5
Total Expenditure	57.1	7.1	64.2	70.7
Contributions (average)	58.5	7.5	66.0	70.7
Surplus ...	1.4	.4	1.8	—

The figures show a surplus of £1,800,000 a year at first, and an exact balance of contributions and expenditure at 1941.

This estimate is not, of course, an actuarial one. That is to say, it is not based on building up a reserve for all the contributors of each age to meet their prospective liabilities according to expectation of life and risks. It shows simply that the income of the fund should be sufficient to meet the outgoings.

The contributions will be almost equally divided between employers, employees, and the State as follows:

Employers ...	£22,150,000
Employees ...	£21,850,000
State ...	£22,000,000

In the present insured trades employers and employees will pay practically the same as at present (with two small adjustments). The total cost to the State will be increased by about £10,000,000 as compared with 1923, partly through the raising of the State contributions from about one-fourth to one-third of the whole, partly by extension to agriculture and domestic service.

This estimate relates to Great Britain and is based on the following figures and assumptions.

The number of persons now insured against unemployment is taken as 11½ millions; the number to be added by inclusion of agriculture and domestic service as 3 million (half men and half women).

The average number of contributions in a year is put at forty-six for present insured trades, and forty-eight for agriculture and domestic service.

It is assumed that 68 per cent. of all those between sixty-five and seventy will receive pension benefit either in their own right or as widows, while another 22 per cent. will be married women not themselves contributors. The remaining 10 per cent. are men or single women above the insurance level.

It is assumed that nine-tenths of all widows with dependent children and of orphans will be qualified for benefit, the remainder being dependents of men above the insurance level. No deduction is made for widows and orphans provided for by Workmen's Compensation payments; this gives a small margin of safety.

The average unemployment percentage in the present insured industries is taken as 6 per cent. (representing 675,000 unemployed), as compared with a pre-war average of about 4½ per cent. It is assumed that by 1941 the average will have fallen to 5 per cent. Unemployment in agriculture and domestic service is taken as about one-tenth of the average for the other insured occupations.

For 1941 the number of persons between sixty-five and seventy is taken, in accordance with Professor Bowley's recent estimate, as 50 per cent. greater than in 1921. The increase of the working population, and so of persons entitled to widows' and orphans' benefit and unemployment benefit, is put at 7 per cent. from 1921 or 6 per cent. from 1924. The number of contributors is assumed to increase in the same proportion, and the average number of contributions each year to rise by 1 per cent. as unemployment falls from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent.

The prospective great increase in the number of persons over 65, and the probability that an increasing number of these will remain fit for work, suggest that if it is desired to place the finance of the scheme on a conservative basis, allowing ample margin for contingencies, the best way of doing this is to raise the qualifying age for pension benefit permanently to sixty-six. This would reduce the annual cost by about £4,400,000 in 1925, and by over £6,000,000 in 1941. If these surpluses are realized, it is quite likely that some use may be found for them later, more urgent than a reduction of the pension age to sixty-five.

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

EGOISM IN PRINT.

IN conversation there is no bore to equal the autobiographical bore, yet the printed autobiography is rightly among the most popular of books, because one of the most entertaining. Benjamin Franklin, whose "Autobiography" has just been reprinted in "The World's Classics" (Milford: 2s. cloth; 3s. 6d. leather), must have been a supreme bore in real life. One can imagine the thin trickle of his conversation becoming, as he grew older, ever more thin, more priggish, and more wearisome. If you had seen him in August, 1788, at the age of eighty-three, slowly bearing down upon you in the streets of Philadelphia or New York, you would have bolted into the nearest shop or down the first side-street, for, had he caught you, he would infallibly have made you listen as he told you "the little artifice" to which he "ow'd the constant felicity of his life" of over eighty years, of his project for scavenging the streets, or of the reason why the lamps in Vauxhall burned so much better than those in London. Yet his autobiography, which contains a full account of his "little artifice," of his scavenging project, and of the Vauxhall lamps, and which he wrote at intervals between 1771 and 1788, is a really entertaining book, and the old gentleman, who would have bored us in the flesh, is charming in print.

* * *

One of the reasons why the written autobiography is nearly always so interesting is, I think, that when a person lets himself loose with a pen on paper about his own life, he almost always gives us a pretty complete picture of his own character. You can read Benjamin Franklin's "Autobiography" in a few hours, and you get this complete picture of him from it. You see that he is a bore, no doubt, but because you see the whole of him, you see that this boringness is only a small part of his character. But in a few hours' conversation with a stranger, even if in that time he tell you the story of his life, it is the rarest thing in the world to get a complete view of him and his character. Face to face, individual traits become distorted and over-emphasized, and character becomes reflected in conversation very much in the way in which we see ourselves reflected in the distorting mirrors outside certain restaurants in South Coast seaside places.

* * *

There are, as we know, many wonderful things, but nothing more wonderful than man. Benjamin Franklin tells us that about the year 1730 "I conceiv'd the bold and arduous project of arriving at moral perfection." Believing that he knew what was right or wrong, he thought that it should prove easy "always to do the one and avoid the other." However, he soon found that "I had undertaken a task of more difficulty than I had imagined." While concentrating upon the avoidance of one kind of fault, he was often surprised to find himself committing another, and he therefore contrived, apparently with success, the following method of obtaining "a steady, uniform rectitude of conduct." He determined after considerable reflection that the number of virtues was thirteen: temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquillity, chastity, and humility. The method which he contrived for acquiring "the *habitude* of all these virtues" was as follows:—

"I made a little book, in which I allotted a page for each of the virtues. I rul'd each page with red ink, so as to have seven columns, one for each day of the week, marking each column with a letter for the day. I

cross'd these columns with thirteen red lines, marking the beginning of each line with the first letter of one of the virtues, on which line, and in its proper column, I might mark, by a little black spot, every fault I found upon examination to have been committed respecting that virtue upon that day."

He made his attack upon the virtues one by one, concentrating, for instance, first upon temperance and allowing the others, from silence and order to chastity and humility, to look after themselves. Then, when he had acquired the virtue of temperance, he went on to that of silence, and so on throughout the list until eventually he arrived at "moral perfection." "I was surpris'd," he tells us, "to find myself so much fuller of faults than I had imagined; but I had the satisfaction of seeing them diminish." Indeed, only one of the virtues seems to have given him any serious trouble: he learnt to "eat not to dullness, drink not to elevation"; he broke himself of the habit "of prattling, punning, and joking"; he taught himself to waste nothing, to cut off all unnecessary actions, to be clean "in body, cloaths, and habitation," to be chaste except "for health or offspring," and to "imitate Jesus and Socrates." The one virtue which he failed to acquire was Order; he never succeeded in learning to put things and papers away in their proper places:—

"In truth, I found myself incorrigible with respect to Order; and now I am grown old, and my memory bad, I feel very sensibly the want of it."

* * *

Benjamin Franklin, with that little book, ruled with red ink lines, in his pocket, marking each day the little black dots—he gives us a sample page in which there are seven little black dots in one week against the virtue of Order—is a charming character, I think. But his book illustrates another characteristic of autobiographies, a characteristic which will be found most marked in two other books just published: "The Book of my Youth," by Hermann Sudermann, translated by Wyndham Harding (Lane: 12s. 6d.), and "A Russian Schoolboy," by Serghei Aksakoff, translated by J. D. Duff, in "The World's Classics" (Milford: 2s. cloth; 3s. 6d. leather). The best part of Franklin's "Autobiography" is that which tells about his childhood and youth; it is the most vivid and the most human. Aksakov's book is a prose epic of childhood; of its charms and of Mr. Duff's excellent translation it is unnecessary to speak; it is a great thing to have the three volumes now complete in this handy and cheap edition. Sudermann's book will attract everyone who has a taste for the autobiography. With a curious mixture of extreme frankness and Teutonic sentimentality, it tells in great detail the story of his childhood and youth. The autobiographies of Franklin and of Sudermann are the works of old men, and Aksakov was sixty-four when he published "A Russian Schoolboy." It is a remarkable thing, I think, that even old men, when they begin to write about their childhood and youth, almost always get into their writing qualities of great vividness and charm which they lose altogether when they deal with some other subject, or even the later years of their own lives. This is particularly so where, as with Franklin and Sudermann, they look back to early years of great poverty, hardship, and successful struggles. The keenness of first impressions and the elation of the struggle rather than of attainment leave, I suppose, an indelible impression on the mind, and the old man regains some of the joy of living in writing his recollections of it.

LEONARD WOOLF.

REVIEWS

MR. LAWRENCE: SENSATIONALIST.

Studies in Classic American Literature. By D. H. LAWRENCE. (Martin Secker, 10s. 6d.)

MR. LAWRENCE's book on American literature is perhaps even more singular than one now expects a book by Mr. Lawrence to be; and it is probably without exception the most singular book ever written on American literature. Singularity, in this day of democratic monotone and colourless competence, has its charm, has almost the air of being a virtue. Mr. Lawrence appears to know this—one suspects occasionally that he positively *cultivates* his singularity. In "Studies in Classic American Literature"—as in his latest book of verse, "Birds, Beasts, and Flowers," and (to a lesser extent) in his psychological debauch "Fantasia of the Unconscious"—he behaves like a man possessed, a man who has been assured by someone (perhaps an Analyst) that restraint is nonsense, that nothing is of importance save a violent, unthinking outpouring of feelings and perceptions; unselected, unarranged, and expressed with a conscious disregard for personal dignity. Perhaps it is Whitman's barbaric yawp which has so disturbed him. Let us, he says in effect, get rid of these literary niceties and conventions and manners, let us be naked and unashamed. "If only people would meet in their very selves, without wanting to put some idea over one another, or some ideal. . . . Damn all ideas and all ideals. Damn all the false stress, and the pins. . . . I am I. Here am I. Where are you? . . . Ah, there you are! Now, damn the consequences, we have met." These sentences occur in Mr. Lawrence's study of Cooper. Of Franklin he remarks: "O Benjamin! O Binjun! You do not suck me in any longer." Of Hawthorne: "Old-fashioned Nathaniel, with his little-boy charm, he'll tell you what's what. But he'll cover it with smarm." He confides in the same essay: "I always remember meeting the eyes of a gipsy woman, for one moment, in a crowd, in England. She knew, and I knew. What did we know? I was not able to make out. But we knew." He confides further: "'I can read him like a book,' said my first lover of me. The book is in several volumes, dear." Discussing the flogging episode in "Two Years Before the Mast," he writes: "The poles of will are the great ganglia of the voluntary nerve system, located beside the spinal column, in the back. From the poles of will in the backbone of the captain, to the ganglia of will in the back of the sloucher Sam, runs a frazzled, jagged current, a staggering circuit of vital electricity. . . ." Of Whitman: "I AM HE THAT ACHES WITH AMOROUS LOVE. What do you make of that? I AM HE THAT ACHES. First generalization. First uncomfortable universalization. WITH AMOROUS LOVE! O, God! Better a bellyache. A bellyache is at least specific. But the ACHE OF AMOROUS LOVE! Think of having that under your skin. All that! I AM HE THAT ACHES WITH AMOROUS LOVE. Walter, leave off. . . . CHUFF! CHUFF! CHUFF! CHU-CHU-CHU-CHU-CHUFF! Reminds one of a steam engine."

These excerpts, while not perhaps the most striking that could be found, will serve to suggest Mr. Lawrence's manner. He is nothing if not colloquial, racy, and confidential. No trifle is too irrelevant for introduction. In his passion for the direct, for the naked and unashamed, he insists on drawing our attention to the very odd clothes he wears (stylistically speaking), and, not satisfied with this, flings them off in a kind of dance of the seven veils. At bottom, this is nothing but intellectual vanity. Mr. Lawrence is convinced that anything he says, no matter how he says it (and he tries perversely to make his saying of it as aggressively and *consciously* and peculiarly naked as possible), will be important. This is a great pity; for here and there, in the course of this amazing farrago of quackeries, occultisms, ganglia, and devil-women, Mr. Lawrence observes his American subjects and their American scene with quite extraordinary acuteness. His tracing of the wish-fulfilment motive in the novels of Cooper and Hawthorne would be wholly admirable if it were not so overshadowed by his alternate efforts to be funny (which are lamentable) and to be shocking (which are pathetic). Again, one is extremely interested in his thesis that all art, but particularly and most persistently American art, springs

from or accompanies the attempt of man to adjust himself to a supersensual morality. In this, he approaches (and is almost alone in approaching) an understanding of the fact that it is the functional nature of art which should pose for the critic his chief problem. Mr. Lawrence is consistently aware of this problem in every study here presented; he invites us to watch with him the drama of the struggle between man's unregenerate "unconscious" and civilization, as it works itself out in the "dream" of art. Unhappily, his awareness of the problem never leads him to define it with any care or precision. His recklessness with terms is astounding. Logic, in his hands, achieves monsters—fantastic structures grow, ascend, throng the universe, and disappear into the intense inane, in the twinkling of an eye. Unhappily again, for all the fact that he moves towards a scientific basis for criticism and delights in the exposure of shams and shibboleths, he brings with him as many shams and shibboleths as he destroys. He is as full of nostrums as a Californian. His book swarms with gods (of the "soul"), greater and lesser; he attaches a tremendous importance to something he calls the "Holy Ghost"; and to complicate the situation, he is all the time ferociously aware of the "blood" and the "ganglia."

These paraphernalia, undefined and numerous, confuse Mr. Lawrence's book and make apparent, of course, his own confusion. One comes away with a feeling that Mr. Lawrence could perceive psychological and æsthetic causes with remarkable shrewdness, but that for the most part he is prevented from a clear view by a frenzy of excitement. Life, art, and criticism of art—all, for Mr. Lawrence, have in them something feverish and sensational. He must talk about them in terms of gods, ghosts, and nether darkneses. His own affects, in other words (which are of a highly peculiar and tyrannous nature), are too immediately and uncontrolledly engaged—he loses his distance. The result, when he turns to criticism, is a kind of sensationalism—awkward, harshly jocose, violent, and often offensive—but here and there lighted with an extraordinarily fine bit of perception, beautifully given.

CONRAD AIKEN.

CRICKET AND CRITICS.

Cricket: Old and New. By A. C. MACLAREN. (Longmans, 6s.)

The Boy's Book of Cricket. By F. A. H. HENLEY. (Bell, 5s.)
Days in the Sun. By NEVILLE CARDUS. (Grant Richards, 6s.)

It is not perhaps without some alarm that we open a book by A. C. MacLaren that bears the sub-title "A Straight Talk to Young Players." Much happened during the season of 1921 that we could wish away from the record of English cricket, and to the humiliating disasters at Trent Bridge and Lord's for many of us there will be always added, as one of the soonest-to-be-forgotten features of that depressing summer, the spectacle of an ex-England captain parading publicly his contempt for the policy of the England side. Much of what Mr. MacLaren had to say was true. But the manner in which he chose to say it was scarcely in keeping with the position he once held in English cricket. And here he returns to the assault.

A good deal of his abuse is, as might be expected, directed against the evils of the two-shouldered stance. And with most of his arguments we are already familiar. Fourteen years ago E. H. D. Sewell was saying much the same sort of thing, and Mr. Henley, in his very instructive manual, states as effectively, if less noisily, that a man whose left shoulder is pointing to short-leg can neither drive nor cut. There is, of course, a case for the defence. But it is a discussion too technical, perhaps, for the layman fittingly to enter. He may, however, in all humility, suggest that the two-shouldered stance is not a post-war product, that its evils were less obvious when, in the spring of 1912, we were winning four test matches in succession against Cotter and Hordern, and that it is possible that our failures of 1921 were due as much to an actual dearth of good cricketers and to the absence, through illness, from our side of our two greatest batsmen, as to the methods adopted by those who played.

These "straight-talk" chapters form, however, only a part of Mr. MacLaren's book, and though he himself regards

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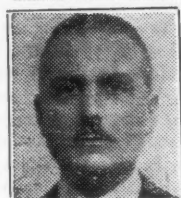
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them as the most important part, it is unlikely that the majority of cricketers will agree with him. Cricket is not, after all, a contentious game; and the game should be written of in the spirit in which it is played. Fortunately, much of this book is. A good deal of it is a personal reminiscence, and Mr. MacLaren combines most happily instruction and entertainment. Here is an example. He was batting once against Tom Richardson, and he felt that he would almost certainly in an over or two give a chance to the wicket-keeper: his one hope was to have the chance missed; and the best way to have it missed was to make the wicket-keeper stand up. To achieve this, he stood outside his crease and deliberately missed every ball that was outside the wicket. The wicket-keeper was forced to stand up, and a ball or two later missed a catch that, standing back, he would have held ninety-nine times in a hundred. That is admirable, so admirable as to make one feel that Mr. MacLaren, when he has grown weary of castigation, may write a big cricket-book. For that "Cricket: Old and New" is not; there is too much in it that is opposed to the spirit of the game. When Neville Cardus writes of the present admittedly low standard of English cricket he does not foam and bluster. He simply remarks that Rhodes and Bestwick are not better bowlers than they were fifteen years ago, but that they are finding it just as easy to get wickets. And he leaves it there. Countries, as counties, have their bad periods. In the meantime, cricket is being played, and he writes of it with a skill and appreciation for which there is no precedent.

For Neville Cardus stands alone. He is a literary man with a fine sense of values. Cricket is a passion to him, and he is just enough of a cricketer to understand the technique of cricket, and not too much of a cricketer to be hampered in his criticism. For the creative artist is rarely a good critic. He has developed his own personality too exclusively, has discarded too much, to assimilate other methods easily. He sees life from one angle: his own. He cannot fulfil the critic's task of standing on a hundred platforms. A. C. MacLaren could never appreciate the number of styles that Mr. Cardus can. He is a creative artist. And Mr. Cardus is a critic: a creative critic, though. His method is too familiar now for an analysis. It is enough to say that "Days in the Sun" is as good as, if not better than, "A Cricketer's Book." His chapter on the effect of a cricket-ground on the cricket that is played there, his silhouette of J. W. Hearne, his boyhood's reminiscence of a Whit Monday at Old Trafford, could not be bettered. That fine quality of sensation which MacLaren put into the long rhythm of his drive, Mr. Cardus has put into these pages.

ALEC WAUGH.

MODERN POETRY.

New Hampshire. By ROBERT FROST. (Grant Richards, 6s.)
The Dark Night. By MAY SINCLAIR. (Cape, 7s. 6d.)
Mock Beggar Hall. By ROBERT GRAVES. (Hogarth Press, 7s. 6d.)

HE who would read modern poetry must first rid his mind of possible preconceptions. He must no longer expect invariably that which he was once taught to expect. He must recognize that a certain school prefers to bring poetry down to the level of life rather than to raise life up to the level of poetry. He must learn not to criticize some modern verse on the ground that it is not poetry at all, but prose. At the same time he must learn to differentiate between those poets who, deliberately adopting their method, are authentic poets because they can yet charge rough speech and inharmonious rhythms with the selective significance vital to poetry, and those charlatans who see in the modern manner merely a convenient escape from the exactions of their craft. Above all, he must free himself from the theory that certain intellectual or emotional regions are the "province of poetry," and must extend his frontiers to include districts unannexed by previous conquerors.

Nor shall he assume that the establishment of the new method need entail the abandonment of the old. Comparisons are unprofitable, and there should surely be room for two fashions to exist side by side. It may be that in time the one will borrow from the other, the new gaining a comeliness

and the old a wider reach, making between them a marriage which shall please alike the impatient and the fastidious. At the present stage of development, or so it appears to me, the essential thing is the exercise of that discrimination between the authentic and the fraudulent, the deliberate and the slipshod, in default of which arises either an undiscerning enthusiasm or a rash rejection.

Of these three books, Mr. Frost's is unquestionably the most important. Mr. Graves is a poet, Miss Sinclair a novelist with a taste for experiments, but Mr. Graves's work has always something of the quality of *bric-à-brac*, and I doubt whether Miss Sinclair will find her new path leading her very far. Her verse has, it is true, much of the economy and poignancy of her prose, but the intrinsic difficulties of her task are great: the happy mean between the poetic and the realistic is not easy to strike when the subject is, as in her book, the perfectly commonplace story of a wife betrayed for another woman; it is so much the fabricated story of fiction that its relation in verse adds only to its obvious artificiality, and we come to the end resentful of the gratuitous difficulties Miss Sinclair has put in her own way and ours, without any gain to our sense of dramatic reality. Mr. Graves is another matter. I would not under-estimate him as a poet. He has wit, he has fancy, he has proved himself over and over again in a number of volumes, but his work does not take me much further than, say, the delightful drawings of Mr. Albert Rutherston or the lustre jugs of Mr. William Nicholson. It is very charming so far as it goes, this clear poetic world which he has created for himself and his readers, and in which he moves with so personal an authority; perhaps one should not ask more of any poet. But Mr. Frost freshens me with a draught of larger air. He furnishes me, moreover, with an excellent illustration of the case I set out to prove. I have, let me own, a prejudice against the modern manner. It is not a strong, certainly not a violent, prejudice; but still, as a prejudice, it exists. I find it hard to rid my mind of its preconceptions. Temperamentally, I incline towards the traditional. But I am ready, even anxious, to be convinced. I do not like to feel that there are ways of thought and of expression proper to my own generation, from which I might be, by my own bigotry, excluded. And Mr. Frost convinces me. One convert equals a score born to the faith. I am convinced, primarily, because I see that Mr. Frost himself can make use as he chooses of those two manners which for the sake of clarity and convenience I may call the New and the Traditional, rather than the Free and the Disciplined, or the Rude and the Polished, the Vernacular and the Courtly; I am forced into the admission that if Mr. Frost, being skilled, when he so elects, in the Traditional, plumps on the whole for the New, he has some very definite and deliberate reason for so doing; he believes, that is to say, that by this method he can communicate some mood or aspect otherwise incommunicable. I would not go so far as to say that I can always appreciate his allusions or even his vocabulary, but no doubt that is because Mr. Frost is an American, and the loss is mine. Where he is purely human I can follow him, and in the humanity of his poems their wealth precisely lies. He extracts from human situations their fullest and tensest value, heavy with the suggestion of what he has left unsaid; his population is not the population merely of Vermont or New Hampshire, but universal types. I trust that this does not read like the vague and quite meaningless generalization of a reviewer. The truth is that Mr. Frost is so near to life and so far removed from the usual hocus-pocus of poetry, that anything approaching to the journalistic jargon of criticism will not fit.

Now the question arises of whether our loss is or is not compensated by our gain. Something, no doubt, has gone from poetry, as practised by Mr. Frost and his school; in the place of that winged or sensuous evocation which we were accustomed to term poetic beauty we are given a harsher and unkind rendering of common truths. Some may yet maintain that such writing belongs more properly to the functions of prose; but such rigid limitation of functions is surely arbitrary, and can have no real bearing upon the purpose of the conscious artist. For my part, as a convert, I am satisfied that Mr. Frost should achieve a reality better clothed in fustian than in the embroidered cloak of poetic diction.

V. SACKVILLE-WEST.



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— THE GREEN REVOLUTION.

The Agrarian Revolution in Roumania. By IFOR L. EVANS.
(Cambridge University Press. 12s. 6d.)

THIS book is the result of intelligent and careful inquiry into a subject of which the author does not, however, seem to have a thorough, immediate experience. Its value consists in that it supplies a concise survey of the main facts and well-arranged statistical data of a problem on which hardly anything has previously been published in English; but though the material is there, conscientiously joined together bone to bone, there is no breath in it. "Industrial production," remarks Mr. Evans, "is in the main a mechanical process, while agricultural production proper is essentially organic." And so is village life, far more complex than social conditions in modern industry and extremely difficult for the outsider to understand; long and intimate acquaintance with it can alone breathe life into a study of agrarian problems.

The agrarian changes which have come over Eastern Europe have not been the deliberate choice of statesmen. Elemental forces are at work, the irresistible pressure from the enormous peasant masses, whose hunger for land cannot be appeased by half measures. Nothing is left to statesmen but to bow to the inevitable, accept the principles of the new social order, and try to establish it with the least possible loss to the community. Still, one may critically appraise the results even of elemental events, and incidentally Mr. Evans himself attempts it (though in an apologetic manner); but he shows impatience with anyone else doing it. Altogether he seems prone to engage in controversy, often without need or reason.

The breaking-up of the big landed estates in Eastern Europe lowers the level of agricultural production, reducing the economy of the countries concerned to a more primitive condition. Mr. Evans himself admits that the total production in Roumania will probably be reduced because "superior methods" were "employed by the large owner cultivators," but he tries to comfort himself with prospects of co-operation between the peasant farmers. "Co-operative ploughing," he says, "should prove quite satisfactory in the low-land region." But such a system, though it may be continued where it has prevailed for centuries, having grown up in a less individualistic age, can hardly be introduced anew. "Agricultural production proper" is not "a mechanical process," and what Mr. Evans says about reaping in England is true about ploughing in Eastern Europe. One day is not the same as another; to wait one's turn is not as it would be in industrial production; if the season is cut short by unfavourable weather, it may mean that this or that holding has to be ploughed whilst the ground is wet or perhaps will not be ploughed at all before the winter. On the big estate the average works out; but can the peasant be expected to accept it where there is no pooling of results?

In certain ways the criticism levelled against the breaking-up of the big landed estates obviously does not apply to Roumania, though it does not thereby lose any of its cogency. In the Old Kingdom of Roumania about half of the land which has been, or is to be, handed over to the peasants, even before the war was worked by them as metayers or tenants, a system practically unknown in other parts of Eastern Europe. Wherever this was the case the change in ownership does not imply any change in the system of production, and from this point of view one can hardly speak of the breaking-up of the estates as of a new thing. Whatever advantage there may be in large-scale production, not a word can be said in defence of metayage, which is not a distinct system of working the land, but a most pernicious method of exploiting the worker. Nor does the argument about the cultural loss which agrarian countries suffer when their country gentry and manor houses disappear, apply to Roumania, which, having been for centuries under Turkish rule, has developed a type of pseudo-civilized effendis, not a landed nobility and gentry such as exists or has existed in practically all non-Balkan European countries. One feels inclined to agree with the description which Mr. Evans gives of them: "In actual fact . . . the lamp of civilization in the large manor houses often burns exceeding dim. . . .

An effete aristocracy living on the crumbs that fall from the tables of their French masters—such is the Ichabod of Roumanian society. Slavish imitation is, of course, notoriously devoid of cultural value, and the passing of the civilization of the boulevard calls rather for tears of joy."

Lastly, with regard to Transylvania, where the great mass of the Roumanian peasantry was subject to the more or less civilized, but essentially strange and nationally hostile, Magyar gentry, arguments about the cultural loss are subject to very serious limitations. A price has obviously to be paid everywhere by the working classes, where they are called upon to maintain a leisured class; but to pay this price for an upper class which is not their own, and is even hostile to their nationality, is an unmitigated, galling evil, this combination of social inferiority with national differences necessarily resulting in bitter antagonism. This was true of Magyar social dominion in Slovakia and Transylvania, of German preponderance in the Baltic Provinces, and it remains true of Polish rule in East Galicia and the other so-called Eastern border provinces. In countries thus constituted, the removal of the upper class is synonymous with national liberation, and is therefore in no way felt as a cultural loss by the subject nationality, which then, and only then, obtains the proper conditions for its own development.

L. B. NAMIER.

COLONEL REPINGTON'S DISCOVERIES.

Policy and Arms. By Lieut.-Colonel CHARLES A COURT REPINGTON. (Hutchinson. 18s.)

COLONEL REPINGTON's diaries of the late war were of exceptional value. The publication of his new book, however, suggests that he may have attributed the public interest in his diaries to the opinions he expressed in them. This would be a mistake. Their value lay in their revelations of controversies and incompetencies among our rulers and in their unconscious indictment of the triviality of "Society" during the war. As an energetic military critic in an unofficial position Colonel Repington was able to say many things which other people do not say, and it is seldom that we see our rulers with such indecent clarity. Probably few books have been so useful as propaganda for those who dislike oligarchies founded on wealth and resent a situation in which common folk, ignorantly accepting idealistic aims set before them, kill and are killed for objects of which only those who dupe them are conscious.

"A military critic," says Colonel Repington, "is a watch-dog of the public," and he warns us that it is our own fault if we do not heed when he barks. In duty bound, therefore, he has written and now published in book form many articles which first appeared in English and American periodicals. In dealing with military topics, such as the Indian frontier, he is well-informed and occasionally interesting. But he does not confine himself to these matters. He makes, for instance, one dive into history in order that "the past and the present can thus be contrasted." This contrast may be seen in the fact that the diplomacy of Queen Elizabeth's Council was unlike modern diplomacy because it dealt not with "mass movements," but "mainly with a few leading men and women." One never knows what Colonel Repington's watchful eye will notice next. For he adds that Marie, Queen of Scots, was exceptionally beautiful and Elizabeth exceptionally wise, and that the latter's wisdom was shown when, realizing her rival's dangerous gifts, she caused her to be executed. Queen Marie, it seems, died wearing a red bodice and the calm courage notoriously prevalent in royal personages in similar situations.

Colonel Repington has made other discoveries. Disarmament, at the time of the Washington Conference, he considered difficult to achieve because of the necessity of Powers, such as France, arming against possible attack from other Powers, such as Germany. He has discovered, too, that Black Troops, though employed by the French, are disliked by the Germans and are not really "brothers" to the French. He thinks social difficulties may arise out of their armed presence in civilized countries. No doubt this is atoned for by the fact that "there are native races which provide admirable missile troops in attack." As for Ameri-

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cans, he tells us that they listen to lectures often and well, and are, "on the whole, a fair people, a religious people, to whom nothing shabby or crooked can long appeal." He has also noticed that they are a young people, and in consequence optimistic. He describes various methods of military, naval, and aerial organization in the United States, England, France, and Spain, believes in co-ordinating defences, and thinks that the Allies were well advised at length in adopting a unified command against Germany. He does not approve of the Bolsheviks or of Mr. Winston Churchill. Sydney he thinks would be a suitable place for a British naval base in the Pacific, while Singapore he condemns as a bad one. The various schools of opinion with reference to Indian frontier policy are subjects of his criticism, and he considers that "the real glory of this frontier is the number of great men it has produced." In spite of this, however, he judges "the bombing of tribal villages without notice" to be a mistake, more especially since "independent tribes bear no malice for a good fight in which they are beaten, because they are warriors themselves and respect courage."

These and many other things Colonel Repington has thought it worth while to reprint. I see no reason to agree with him.

B. K. M.

PYGMIES AND PALAUNGS.

Big Game and Pygmies. By CUTHBERT CHRISTY. (Macmillan. 21s.)

The Home of an Eastern Clan. By Mrs. LESLIE MILNE. (Oxford University Press. 16s.)

DR. CHRISTY'S "Big Game and Pygmies" is one of the best books, if not the best, that has been written about forest hunting, a very different thing from bush hunting. In his twenty-five years of African travel Dr. Christy has had continuous experience of both. He was eighteen months in the Ituri forest, which no white man can hope to penetrate without the aid of the Pygmies. The hunter must first gain their confidence, or he will neither find his game nor get back to his starting-point. That is why the Pygmy is bracketed with big game in the title. We learn a good bit about him, though not so much as we should like. Dr. Christy regrets that he neglected the study of his hosts, but he put it off for the next occasion, which never came. The days were not long enough "to study, or even to pay attention to, a quarter of the interesting things which pass cinematograph-like before one in the twenty-four hours." Thirty chapters packed with the author's experience and observation bear this out. Dr. Christy speaks with authority on many subjects—anthropology, paleontology, economic botany, sleeping sickness and other tropical diseases. He is a systematic zoologist and entomologist. When he has shot his beast, he is able to identify the flies on its carcase. And he has attacked the mysterious problems of the origin and evolution and range-area of the different African species at first hand. His conclusions, as he observes, may be more usefully recorded than those of others who have worked merely from museum material. Dr. Christy was first drawn to the Ituri forest by the Okapi. No white man before him had shot and brought home a specimen of this newly discovered beast. And here is another link, or analogy, between the Pygmy and the fauna of the Congo and Ituri forest basins. Both men and beasts are the last remaining representatives of the denizens of primeval Africa when the forest belt stretched across the continent from sea to sea. Just as the Ituri Pygmy is the survival of the ancestor of the African forest man, so in the okapi, the little red forest buffalo, and the forest elephant we find the original type from which the giraffe, the bush elephant, and the marginal forest buffalo, all widely dissociated from the parent stock, have descended. The life history of all three, dwarfed and specialized in colour and habit by existence for long ages in dark forest surroundings, seems to be closely analogous. The giraffe, elephant, and buffalo inhabiting the more open zones "have increased in size and become otherwise specialized to suit their changed surroundings, while the original stock left in the forest have

remained, like the Pygmies, unmodified, or at any rate less changed, to the present day." Dr. Christy has treated these and similar problems of the origin and range-area of African species with great clearness. He could have written a profoundly scientific book if he had chosen, but he has avoided too much technical detail out of consideration for "the general reader." We think that in addressing himself to the sportsman-naturalist he has hit the happy mean. "Big Game and Pygmies" is essentially a hunter's book. At the same time it is full of incident and vividly observant description which will fascinate the reader who has never held a gun in his hand.

Mrs. Milne has fallen in love with her subject, the Palaungs of the Shan States, or rather a single tribe of Palaungs whose home is Tawnpeng, a Shan State governed by a Palaung Chief. Her book is a model of system and application. The life of the Palaung is treated exhaustively, from the cradle to the grave, and even after in the spirit world. The compact result will earn the respect of the anthropologist; and the general reader, even if he is dismayed at first by the detail, will enjoy dipping into it. His first impression will be of fidelity to fact. This is much too meticulously exact, he will argue, for idealism. When he has read a hundred pages he will not be able to point to a paragraph which he does not accept as essentially true; yet the impression will have grown on him that no people on earth can be so untainted as these Palaungs. Either Mrs. Milne has idealized them, or she has discovered the true Utopia. We fancy she carries her Utopia with her. In the Palaung hills, she tells us, she was never "troubled by biting creatures of an unpleasant kind." A pretty euphemism which we may take as indicative of a disposition that sees only beauty in life. This singleness of vision is consistent throughout. It ought to, and does, increase our pleasure in her book. She has written an idyll without the least hint or idea of being idyllic. Her Palaungs are not merely honest, truthful, chaste, courteous, hospitable, religious. There is a vein of poetry, a delicate imagery, a refinement of fancy, something beautiful and spiritual that enters into all their common everyday relations of life.

The Palaung children enjoy a great deal of freedom. At an early age they are taught to be gentle and polite. If they break a pot or a dish they are taught to apologize to it. Their conduct to their elders is, of course, even more respectful. Later they are instructed in courtship. They learn to speak a symbolic language of plants and leaves. Young men and maidens are chaste, delicate, and modest; the girls chaperone one another; lovers seldom meet outside their parents' houses. Occasionally, very occasionally, an illegitimate child is born. And there is no such thing as an *injusta noverca*. Mrs. Milne never heard of a stepmother being unkind to her husband's children, legitimate or illegitimate. Nor does one often hear of an unfaithful wife. In the old days, if such a scandal arose, the guilty woman and her lover were shut up together for three months in a small room, and were given just sufficient food to keep them alive. When at length they were set free they never wished to see each other again. The story is typical of Palaung humanity. Even in their trials by ordeal they are humane. That there should be such trials seems to argue the existence of crime, but this side of the picture Mrs. Milne has not touched.

And the same aura of gentleness and piety is carried into the other world. Palaungs speak of their dead friends and kinsfolk in the same tone of voice that they used when they were alive. Naturally folk who pass their lives in such a *milieu* have beautiful thoughts, sayings, dreams, proverbs, legends. Even their riddles are poetical. "Ferns trembling over a deep pool. What are they?" The answer is "Eyelashes." The Palaung does not like ugliness. Flowers open to butterflies, not to dung beetles. This, or something like it, is a Palaung proverb.

One lays the book down with the impression that it is all too good to be true. Morally, it is as true as a fairy tale; and literally as true, perhaps, as an account of the diurnal and nocturnal round by an exact and conscientious observer whose eyes have been shut during the night. A sympathetic rather than a scientific interpretation. And the folklore is delightful.

EDMUND CANDLER.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF

A Book of Famous Ships. By C. FOX SMITH. (Methuen. 6s.)

It is sometimes asked whether it is not a mere sentimental conservatism that makes us look back regretfully, amidst all the triumphs of steam, to the days of the China Clippers and the Blackwall Frigates. Miss Fox Smith supplies an answer to this question. From old records, unearthed with infinite pains, from the recollections of merchant captains, from the yarns of ancient shellbacks, she has reconstructed the biographies of some ships that made history in the greatest days of sail, and in recounting their vanished glories she has contrived, with remarkable success, to convey the sense of that individual quality, that almost human personality, which won for them the love of those who sailed them. Her little book abounds in good stories and half-forgotten nautical lore; it is marked also, in many passages, by a grace and delicacy appropriate to the history of ships that, above all others, "wedded the transient beauty of man's handiwork to the eternal beauty of the sea."

Before the Mast—and After. The Autobiography of a Sailor and Shipowner. By Sir WALTER RUNCIMAN, Bart. (Fisher Unwin. 18s.)

The fascination of Sir Walter Runciman's book may best be conveyed by saying that, if one of Mr. Conrad's sea captains had possessed a gift for writing, this is precisely the book he would have written. Here is a Conrad novel in the rough, before the master has thrown his cloak of many-coloured words over it. Sir Walter was an active seaman in the great days, which he admires and regrets, of the sailing ship. Benevolent legislation had then done little to remove what was removable of a sailor's hardships. Sir Walter climbed from cabin-boy to captain over the stoniest of roads. He was "moulded into manhood under the rule of barely regulated ferocity." He has gone without food or water, been shot at by mutineers, ridden storms, and seen ships sink by his side, until, worn out by the buffetings of his friend and enemy, he retired, to become a highly successful shipowner. But Sir Walter would probably agree that it was the early life that was the best worth living, not only for its adventures, but for its encounters, for his book is full of various and wonderful men.

Small Houses for the Community. By C. H. JAMES and F. R. YERBURY. With Foreword by RAYMOND UNWIN. (Crosby Lockwood. 31s. 6d.)

The evidence of this book certainly shows that in the teeth of difficulties confronting them, reformers in housing during the last fifteen years have won a battle. This battle was, and is, the recognition that not only the number of houses per acre and their healthy orientation, but also the spacing and grouping of houses, the relationship of height of building to width of street, and in fact all those elements which are termed *aesthetic*, are of first importance to the life of the masses. The modern architect can study, and has often studied, all the factors of housing so as to plan his housing scheme, arrange that sunlight should reach all living rooms, conduct his roads along natural contour lines, group his houses to form natural masses upon these lines, eliminate all "ornament" from his elevations, and, having completed a whole locality, sit down with a sketch-book and make out of the mere grouping of his simple shapes an interesting picture. The process for such an achievement is given by Messrs. James and Yerbury in this book, from the selection of the site, the disposal of the sewage, &c., to an estimate and bill of quantities for the houses themselves. Photographs of different types of housing schemes are given. They include the schemes of distinguished persons such as His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Sir Philip Sassoon, and schemes of municipalities and of enterprising societies and groups. Detailed drawings of some of the best houses by the younger school of architects are given. The most valuable contribution to the modern situation in housing is that the standard is now recognized to be as much a matter of form, or *outside*, as of hygiene and *inside*. In the words of Mr. Raymond Unwin, "that standard no one who is responsible for housing work can afford to neglect. Who falls below it will in future hardly escape reproach."

The Decorative Arts in England, 1660-1780. By H. H. MULLINER. (Batsford. £3 10s.)

Colonel Mulliner has compiled an excellent *catalogue raisonné* of English decorative work between the years 1660 and 1780. This was a period of great activity and of a high standard of artistic merit, when the decorative arts

in this country were taken more seriously, and brought to a greater degree of perfection, than at any other time. A stimulus was given to them by the fact that it became fashionable at this time for Englishmen to travel on the Continent; returning with the feeling that England was behindhand in these matters, they were desirous of giving encouragement and patronage to English craftsmen. This also largely accounts for the foreign influences—particularly French and Dutch—which are visible in the furnishings of the period. But these were by no means merely imitative; an original and perfectly English school came into existence, which produced such masters as the Chippendales, Robert Adam, Hepplewhite, and Sheraton. Colonel Mulliner gives well-chosen illustrations from photographs of about two hundred and fifty objects. These include not only furniture, but almost all branches of decorative work (silver, enamel, glass, needlework, bookbinding, &c.) with the exception of porcelain, jewellery, and costume.

The A B C of Nineteenth-Century English Ceramic Art. By J. F. BLACKER. (Stanley Paul. 15s.)

This book is a reissue, under a slightly different title, of a work first published ten or twelve years ago (the original edition, like this one, was undated). Ceramic art, in any tolerable meaning of the word, did not exist in England during the nineteenth century. Such being the case, we have no right to expect that any intelligence should be devoted to its criticism and appreciation. But there is a considerable body of people eager to collect these insignificant curios, and Mr. Blacker in this badly written and unscientific book gives his public all they deserve. No attempt has been made in this edition to correct the errors and irrelevancies which were publicly noted on the appearance of the first edition.

Thomas Girtin's Water-Colours. By RANDALL DAVIES. ("The Studio." £3 3s.)

Mr. Randall Davies's excellent book on Girtin is illustrated with nearly a hundred reproductions of Girtin's works, some of which are in colour. It contains a short foreword on the artist by Mr. Davies, who has collected much interesting information from contemporary sources with regard to Girtin's life and work. This he has collated in such a way as to make his preface much more readable than is often the case in similar publications. Girtin was one of the most important, if not the most interesting, of the English water-colourists. It is perhaps idle to speculate upon what he might have achieved had he lived longer: he died at the early age of twenty-seven. During that short space of time he produced not merely a great deal of work, but a great deal of good work, though even his later drawings show that he had hardly yet shaken off the manner of his masters. The son of a Southwark brushmaker, he started as a "topographical draughtsman," and it may fairly be said that he never quite lost this "topographical" quality, even when, later, he was producing work of a much higher and more original order.

These Things Considered. By MARGARET A. POLLOCK. With a Foreword by J. L. HAMMOND. (Parsons. 7s. 6d.)

This little book covers an immense area of economics and politics, dealing *inter alia* with Socialism, religion, foreign politics, the peace settlement, unemployment, housing, education, and the Capital Levy. It speaks highly for Mrs. Pollock's ability and sincerity that she has nevertheless produced a work of real usefulness which should be read by "ordinary men" who feel that all is not well with the world and do not see clearly the way to put it right. Mrs. Pollock succeeds because she writes and thinks clearly and sincerely, and because her aim is "not to supply information, but to provoke thought." It is to be hoped that the book will be read by those for whom it is especially intended—people in fairly easy circumstances who do not often think of the connection between Acts of Parliament and the conditions under which most of their neighbours live.

John T. W. Mitchell. By PERCY REDFERN. (Fisher Unwin. 3s. 6d.)

Probably no one outside the Co-operative Movement has ever heard of the subject of this little biography. Yet Mitchell was in many ways a remarkable man, a type of the best working-class leader and builder of the Co-operative Movement. He began life with almost every conceivable handicap; he became the pioneer, if not the father, of the idea of consumers' co-operation; he died Chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society; and he left as his total estate £350 17s. 8d. Mr. Redfern has written a very sympathetic account of his life.

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